IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A communication method of communicating among a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

storing <u>function</u> index information in each of ~~said~~ <u>the</u> plurality of information apparatuses;

acquiring <u>function</u> index information associated with processes which ~~can be executed~~ <u>are executable</u> on each of ~~said~~ <u>the</u> information apparatuses connected to a network to transmit ~~said~~ <u>the function</u> index information among ~~said~~ <u>the</u> information apparatuses<u>, the each of the information apparatuses informing other of the information apparatuses of a method by which the apparatus itself is controlled</u>; and

presenting the <u>acquired function</u> index information ~~acquired in the step of acquiring the index information~~.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ <u>A</u> communication method according to claim 20, wherein ~~the step of~~ <u>the</u> presenting <u>the acquired function</u> index information presents bitmap and character information included in the <u>acquired function</u> index information ~~acquired in the step of acquiring the index information~~.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A communication method for a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

acquiring <u>function and information</u> index information associated with processes which ~~can be executed~~ <u>are executable</u> on each of the information apparatuses connected to a

2

network to transmit information among them, through ~~said~~ the network, the <u>information</u>

index information being stored in each of ~~said~~ the plurality of information apparatuses

through ~~said~~ the network and relating <u>to</u> data held in ~~said~~ the information apparatuses<u>, and the</u>

<u>each of the information apparatuses informing other of the information apparatuses of a</u>

<u>method by which the apparatus itself is controlled</u>;

presenting the <u>function and information</u> index information acquired in the ~~step of~~

acquiring the <u>function and information</u> index information; and

when given data and a given process are linked together on the basis of the <u>function</u>

<u>and information</u> index information presented in the ~~step of~~ presenting the <u>function and</u>

<u>information</u> index information, transmitting the given data from one of the information

apparatuses which holds the given data to another of the information apparatuses which

executes the process linked with the data through ~~said~~ the network.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ <u>A</u> communication method according to claim 22,

wherein ~~the step of~~ the presenting <u>the function and information</u> index information presents

bitmap and character information included in the <u>acquired function and information</u> index

information ~~acquired in the step of acquiring the index information~~.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A communication method of communicating among

a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

storing <u>function and information</u> index information in each of ~~said~~ the plurality of

information apparatuses;

acquiring <u>function and information</u> index information associated with processes

which ~~can be executed~~ <u>are executable</u> on each of the information apparatuses connected to a

network to transmit ~~said~~ the function index information among ~~said~~ the information

3

apparatuses, the ~~information~~ index information relating <u>to</u> data held in ~~said~~ <u>the</u> information

apparatuses<u>, and the each of the information apparatuses informing other of the information</u>

<u>apparatuses of a method by which the apparatus itself is controlled</u>;

presenting the <u>function and information</u> index information acquired in ~~the step of~~

acquiring the <u>function and information</u> index information;

when given data and a given process are linked together on the basis of the <u>function</u>

<u>and information</u> index information presented in ~~the step of~~ presenting the <u>function and</u>

<u>information</u> index information, setting <u>a</u> connection between the information apparatus

holding the data and the information apparatus holding the data and the information apparatus

which executes the process linked with the data; and

using the connection ~~placed~~ <u>set</u> in ~~the step of~~ <u>the</u> setting the connection to transmit the

information data using a predetermined ~~fix~~ <u>fixed</u> length message to ~~said~~ <u>the</u> information

apparatus which executes the process linked with the information data.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A communication system for communicating among

a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

a connector ~~section configured~~ to connect ~~said~~ <u>the</u> information apparatuses to a

network;

~~an~~ <u>a function</u> index information acquiring ~~section~~ <u>module</u> configured to acquire

<u>function</u> index information associated with processes which ~~can be executed~~ <u>are executable</u>

on each of ~~said~~ <u>the</u> information apparatuses, through the network, the <u>function</u> index

information being stored in each of ~~said~~ <u>the</u> plurality of information apparatuses<u>, the each of</u>

<u>the information apparatuses informing other of the information apparatuses of a method by</u>

<u>which the apparatus itself is controlled</u>; and

4

~~an~~ a <u>function</u> index information presenting ~~section~~ <u>module</u> configured to present the <u>function</u> index information acquired by the <u>function</u> index information acquiring ~~section~~ <u>module</u>.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ <u>A</u> communication system according to claim 25, wherein ~~said~~ <u>the function</u> index information presenting ~~section~~ <u>module</u> includes a ~~section~~ <u>module</u> configured to present bitmap and character information included in the <u>function</u> index information acquired by ~~said~~ <u>the function</u> index information acquiring ~~section~~ <u>module</u>.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A communication system for communicating among a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

a connector ~~section configured~~ to connect ~~said~~ <u>the</u> information apparatuses to a network;

~~an~~ a <u>function and information</u> index information acquiring ~~section~~ <u>module</u> configured to acquire <u>function and information</u> index information associated with processes which ~~can be executed~~ <u>are executable</u> on each of the information apparatuses, through ~~said~~ <u>the</u> network, the <u>function</u> index information being stored in each of ~~said~~ <u>the</u> plurality of information apparatuses, the <u>information</u> index information relating <u>to</u> data held in ~~said~~ <u>the</u> information apparatuses<u>, and the each of the information apparatuses informing other of the information apparatuses of a method by which the apparatus itself is controlled</u>;

a <u>function and information</u> index information presenting ~~section~~ <u>module</u> configured to present the <u>function and information</u> index information acquired by ~~said~~ <u>the function and information</u> index information acquiring ~~section~~ <u>module</u>; and

a transmission ~~section~~ <u>module configured</u> ~~configure~~ to, when given data and a given process are linked together on the basis of the <u>function and information</u> index information

5

presented by ~~said~~ the function and information index information presenting ~~section~~ module,

transmit the given data from one of the information apparatuses which holds the given data to

another of the information apparatuses which executes the process linked with data through

~~said~~ the network.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ A communication system according to claim 27,

wherein ~~said~~ the function and information index information presenting ~~section~~ module

includes a ~~section~~ module configured to present bitmap and character information included in

the function and information index information acquired by ~~said~~ the function and information

index information acquiring ~~section~~ module.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A communication system for communicating among

a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

a connector ~~section configured~~ to connect ~~said~~ the information apparatuses to a

network;

~~an~~ a function and information index information acquiring ~~section~~ module configured

to acquire function and information index information associated with processes which ~~can~~

~~be executed~~ are executable on each of ~~said~~ the information apparatuses connected to a

network to transmit information among them, the function index information being

transmitted over the network to be stored in each of ~~said~~ the plurality of information

apparatuses, the information index information relating data held in said information

apparatuses;

~~an~~ a function and information index information presenting ~~section~~ module

configured to present the function and information index information acquired by ~~said~~ the

function and information index information acquiring ~~section~~ module;

6

a first transmission ~~section~~ module configured to, when given data and a given process are linked together on the basis of the function and information index information presented by ~~said~~ the function and information index information presenting ~~section~~ module, set a connection between one of the information apparatuses which holds the data and another of ~~said~~ the information apparatuses which executes the process linked with the data; and

a second transmission ~~section~~ module configured to transmit the information data having a predetermined ~~fix~~ fixed length message to one of ~~said~~ the information apparatuses which executes the process linked with the information data, using the connection ~~placed~~ set by the ~~connection setting section~~ first transmission module.